Arabella and Sarah Lawrence

Hamilton’s introduction to Coleridge

Anne van Weerden, 2021

Abstract

Miss Sarah Lawrence was a ‘dear’ friend of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. In 2008 it was con-
cluded that the Irish mathematician Sir William Rowan Hamilton had deceived her into
giving him a letter of introduction to Coleridge, and that thereafter he had lied when he
claimed to have received the letter unexpectedly. This conclusion was based upon a small
error made by Hamilton’s biographer Robert Graves, who had assumed that Hamilton’s
friend was Sarah Lawrence instead of her younger sister Arabella, yet the mistake became
embedded in the wide-spread negative view on Hamilton’s private life. It will be shown that
the friendship between Hamilton and Arabella Lawrence was a very truthful one; that such
deceit was very out-of-character for Hamilton; that there are far more plausible scenarios;
that, consequently, there is no reason to doubt Hamilton’s own claim, that he received
the letter unexpectedly.

1 Introduction

Even apparently insignificant errors can contribute to erroneous historical conclusions. In case of
the famous Irish mathematician Sir William Rowan Hamilton (1805-1865) that happened with
a letter of introduction to Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), which Hamilton received in
March 1832 from Miss Sarah Lawrence (1780-1859).

Sarah Lawrence was principal of a girls’ school in Liverpool which she ran together with four
younger sisters, Mary (1783-1861), Arabella (1787-1873), Jane (1788-1842), and Harriet (1789-
1863). Next to principal of the school she had been governess to the family of Peter (1760-1833)
and Mary Crompton (1759/1760-1840). Sarah was a very good friend of Coleridge whom she
met in any case in 1808 and 1812 at the Crompton’s house, Eton House at Wavertree near Liver-
pool, yet she may have met him earlier.

The small mistake made by Hamilton’s biographer Robert Perceval Graves (1810-1893) in
his enormous biography, published in the 1880s, was that when he wrote that in 1825 Hamilton
had befriended Miss Arabella Lawrence, he called Arabella “the eldest of three sisters” instead
of “the third of five sisters.” Yet not mentioning the sisters’ first names made it very difficult
to notice.

1 [Watts 1998, 55]. Dates of birth and death of the Lawrence family can be found on the website Thomas
Lawrence Family of Wem, Shropshire. In [Van Weerden 2017, 58] I wrote that four sisters were living then, an error
apparently stemming from what I had written before I found Miss Sarah’s family genealogy, [Lawrence 1844],
and the Lawrence website. Note: all webpages except those on the large archival websites have been saved at the
WayBackMachine as 2020 or 2021 snapshots.

2 For the Crompton family see Mary Crompton.

3 [EH Coleridge 1895, 758 fn 1], [Hall 1940, 60]. In the footnote of [EH Coleridge 1895] the house of the Cromptons, Eton House, Wavertree, is mistaken for Eaton Hall, Cheshire. The webpage Bishop Eton reads, “Dr. Crompton, whose name survives in Crompton’s Lane on the east side of the property, and his family lived in Eton Hall [the webpage adds: (sic)] from 1797 to 1843. Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his family were regular visitors.” For Coleridge’s letter having been written to “Miss S. Lawrence”, see [EH Coleridge 1895, 760].

4 Graves will not have known the Lawrence sisters personally. Born in 1810, he met Hamilton when his eldest
brother John (1806-1870) befriended Hamilton at college, in the latter half of 1823. Graves himself seems to have befriended Hamilton in 1829 [Van Weerden 2017, 81].
Graves thus introduced the friendship between Hamilton and Miss Arabella, who was eighteen years his senior.

It was some time in the course of [1825] that Hamilton made acquaintance with Miss Lawrence, the eldest of three sisters who kept a girls’ school at the Grange, near Liverpool. It seems likely that she was on a visit to Miss [Maria] Edgeworth [(1768-1849)], and that the mutual introduction took place through her. [...] This lady became to Hamilton, for some years, a valuable friend and adviser, as letters from her still in existence amply prove. He visited her and her sisters more than once, and to them he was indebted for an introduction to the elder Coleridge. 5

The fact that Graves did not know that Sarah Lawrence was the eldest sister instead of Hamilton's friend Arabella unfortunately led to a new facet to Hamilton's already severely damaged reputation; 6 that he had been deceiving the Lawrence sisters to obtain an introduction to Coleridge, and had lied about it in a letter to his sister Eliza Hamilton (1807-1851).

1.1 A letter of introduction to Coleridge

In 2008 Waka Ishikura published an article in *The Coleridge Bulletin*, in which she, following Graves’ mistake of calling Arabella “the eldest” sister, erroneously assumed that Arabella Lawrence had been governess with the Cromptons. Ishikura writes,

> Arabella Lawrence was a former governess in the Crompton family, and Dr Crompton was an early supporter of Coleridge’s plan of establishing a school for young people in some of the growing industrial cities in 1796. In those years, Coleridge’s esteem for the Cromptons was so high that he remarked that “Mrs Crompton is an Angel: & Dr Crompton a truly honest & benevolent man.”

Next to Miss Sarah Lawrence also Mrs. Mary Crompton had been a friend of Coleridge; Ishikura gave a sentence from a letter written by Coleridge to Sarah Lawrence in March 1832,

> You, and dear, dear, dear Mrs Crompton, are among the few Sunshiny Images that endear my past life to me.

But mistaking Arabella for the eldest Lawrence sister, knowing that Hamilton received his letter of introduction from the “eldest Miss Lawrence,” 9 Ishikura then concluded that Hamilton had deceived her into introducing him to Coleridge.

In 1831 Hamilton had asked William Wordsworth (1770-1850), whom he had befriended in 1827, to introduce him, but because Coleridge was ill Wordsworth did not feel free to do so. Ishikura thus wrote about a visit Hamilton made to the Lawrence sisters in May 1832,

> Hamilton might have tried to use all his intelligence relating to Coleridge. On his visit to the Miss Lawrences, he wrote however to his sister Eliza: “I had the pleasure of hearing many anecdotes of the early life of Coleridge […] and of getting, what I had not all expected, a letter of introduction to him which may be very useful.” It would surely have seemed impolite to the elderly ladies who welcomed him so much if he revealed this secret, yet the prime purpose of the visit was just to get a key to open the gate to the sage at Highgate. 10

Ishikura subsequently embedded her conclusions within Hamilton’s misinterpreted love-life and the overall negative view on his private life, discussing Hamilton’s allegedly long love for Catherine Disney (1800-1853), but leaving out Ellen de Vere (ca 1810-1889), about whom he had been very depressed just before visiting the Lawrence sisters. 11

5 [Graves 1882, 191]
6 For the long train of ever evolving gossip see [Van Weerden and Wepster 2018].
7 [Ishikura 2008, 66]
8 Ibid.
9 [Graves 1882, 535]
10 [Ishikura 2008, 66]
11 See p. 9. In his biography, [Hankins 1980], Thomas Hankins showed the importance of Hamilton’s love for Catherine Disney, which had partially been concealed by Graves. Yet Hankins then concluded that she was the
Thus knowing about a friendship between Miss Lawrence and Coleridge but not that Hamilton’s friend was not Coleridge’s friend, Ishikura could indeed conclude that Hamilton planned this visit to the Miss Lawrences just to procure an introduction to Coleridge. But placing what happened in context it becomes a very different story.

2 A truthful friendship

In 1777 Mary Johnson (1755-1804) married Nathaniel Lawrence (1748/49-1803) of Birmingham. They had eleven children, nine daughters and two sons, of whom eight survived into adulthood. The family was Unitarian, and in 1793 Mary set up a girls’ school. Her eldest child Eliza was fifteen then, and the youngest, Catherine, was one, but it appears that growing up many or most of her daughters joined her, and also became teachers.

After the deaths of their parents, late in 1806 or early in 1807 the seven living sisters moved to Liverpool. From 1807 to 1839 they had a girl’s school in Gateacre, of which Sarah, a “writer, poet and good Horatian Scholar,” was principal. They were “highly accomplished teachers, attracting the daughters of leading Unitarian families to their school.” Eliza married in 1810 and died in 1811, Frances died in 1816, and Jane in 1842. At the time of the 1851 census the four remaining sisters, Sarah, Mary, Arabella, and Harriet, lived together in Milverton, Warwickshire, which means that it can be assumed that when Hamilton visited them in Liverpool in 1827, and twice in 1832, the then five sisters also lived together.

2.1 Miss Arabella Lawrence

Little generally available information about Arabella Lawrence’s work can be found online, yet she has been described as “an impressive young educationalist.” What is known about her is that she was a friend of Lady Anne Isabella Byron (1792-1860), corresponding with her from in any case 1818 until 1859, about education and the Cooperative Movement. From about 1829 until 1832 Arabella Lawrence was governess of Lady Byron’s daughter Ada (1815-1852), later Lady Lovelace, who became famous for having written the first program for a digital computer, the “Analytical Engine” of the mathematician Charles Babbage (1791-1871).

In 1829 Ada had become bed-ridden after a severe attack of measles, and just before or at that time Lady Byron had asked help of family friends for Ada’s education: William King (1786-1865), head of the Brighton Cooperative Society, the mathematician William Frend (1757-1841) and his daughter Sophia (1809-1892), who in 1837 would marry the mathematician Augustus De Morgan (1806-1871), and Arabella Lawrence. Arabella corresponded with Ada, the only woman Hamilton ever loved; a conclusion disputed in [Van Weerden 2017]. See for Catherine’s grievous story and how that affected many more people than just Hamilton, Weerden, A. van (2019), Catherine Disney: a biographical sketch.

12 See for Catherine’s grievous story and how that affected many more people than just Hamilton, Weerden, A. van (2019), Catherine Disney: a biographical sketch.
13 [Watts 1998, 55] for Sarah Lawrence as an author, see her most widely held works.
14 [Lawrence 1844, 25]. Their brother Nathaniel died in 1824.
15 [Watts 1998, 55]. For Sarah Lawrence as an author, see her most widely held works.
16 [Lawrence 1844, 25]. Their brother Nathaniel died in 1824.
17 Lawrence family website, see footnote 1.
18 [Seymour 2018, 148].
19 Correspondence ca 1818-1842, and 1858-1859.
20 [In 1829, at Liverpool, Lady Byron] talked with Arabella Lawrence about Miss Lawrence’s own successful school for the city’s poor.” [Seymour 2018, 166].
22 Charles Babbage, The Analytical Engine was conceived in 1837, but only partly built.
23 Dr. William King and the Co-operator; xxii-xiii. “Dr. King […] addressed the workers in language that all could understand. He [showed how they] could improve their conditions by working together; demonstrated how even the poorest could amass capital by co-operative shopkeeping; and foretold how voluntary co-operation […] would lead to ownership and associated industry, and eventually carry the workers forward to a new society.”
24 William Frend was, next to mathematician, a Unitarian clergyman and social reformer.
25 Augustus De Morgan would become Ada Lovelace’s teacher and mathematical correspondent. In 1841 he started a correspondence with Hamilton which lasted until the latter’s death. In 1853 De Morgan remarked in
and every few weeks she visited her. In March 1830, during one of these visits, Arabella wrote a letter to Hamilton from “Lady Byron’s residence at Hanger Hill,” proposing to introduce him to Lady Byron, but according to Graves, “the offer does not seem to have been acted on.” After Ada's recovery in 1832 other tutors were hired.

Graves had continued his introduction of Arabella Lawrence writing,

To Miss Lawrence Hamilton had shown some of his poems, and had received from her in return criticisms honestly blending praise and dispraise.

This can be connected directly to a letter Hamilton wrote in February 1833 to his then wife-to-be Helen Bayly (1804-1869):

You may perhaps remember my telling you that I was so much and so agreeably struck by your sincerity in saying, in the summer before last, that you preferred my sister’s poems to my own, as to mention it to an English lady, Miss Isabella Lawrence, with whom I had for many years been intimate, our intimacy having begun in a similar instance of candour on her part.

Although Graves partly misread Miss Arabella’s name when giving Hamilton’s letter, in complete accordance with this quote Hamilton did mention her name unambiguously in the letter to Eliza, written in June 1832 while staying with the ‘Miss Lawrences’ as he then started to call them. It was his second visit that year; he had visited them in March 1832 on his way to London, and this time, in June, he was returning home after a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Oxford.

In the evening I came out here with my bag, in the hope, in which I was not disappointed, that the Miss Lawrences might have a room to spare. My old friend Miss Arabella L. is absent, but will return to-day, to set out however to-morrow on a party to the Lakes of Cumberland. The eldest Miss L. has shown me a very affectionate and interesting letter, chiefly of a religious nature, which was written to her by Coleridge while I was in London.

2.2 Truthfulness

On 16 July 1823, just after his entrance to Trinity College Dublin, Hamilton wrote to ‘Cousin Arthur’ (1776-1840),

I would wish rather to be thought dull than malignant, though but in the slightest degree; and I have a greater desire to be loved than admired.

a letter to Hamilton about Lovelace, “Her father would have sworn at her, if he could have known that she had a mathematical head” [Graves 1889, 451].

[Graves 1882, 374]

See p. 2.

[Graves 1882, 191]. For Hamilton’s reaction to Miss Arabella’s criticisms see [Graves 1882, 192-195] and [Van Weerden 2017, 59-61].

[Graves 1885, 23-24]. From the sentence by Lady Byron which is given in the record of her 1858 correspondence with Arabella Lawrence, see footnote 19, “...on the one more point. You appear to think that I regard Education as the Panacea for moral evils, no, I do not ...” it can be inferred that Arabella Lawrence was as honest to Lady Byron as she was to Hamilton.

[Graves 1882, 575-576], [EH Coleridge 1895, 758]. This was the letter starting with “You and dear, dear Mrs. Crompton.” The date of this letter was not 22 March, as given in [EH Coleridge 1895, 758], but 18 March, as given in [Coburn et al. 2019, 278]. It is in agreement with the date of Hamilton’s first visit to Coleridge’s house, see p. 10, and with the transcript made by Hamilton and given by Graves, which reads “Grove, Highgate, Sunday, March, 1832.”

Arthur Hamilton was a cousin of Hamilton’s father Archibald Hamilton (1778-1819). After Archibald’s death ‘Cousin Arthur’, as Hamilton called him, became a father figure for the Hamilton siblings.
This stance towards honesty would remain to be important to Hamilton for the rest of his life. Having been used to extreme praise from his youngest years he always worked on himself, contemplating his motives and actions, and using his emotional pains to remain humble.  

Hamilton indeed valued truthfulness very highly; comparing poetry and science, he associated poetry with Beauty, and science with Truth.  

In the matter of right and wrong, Hamilton was very simple-minded. To say he was truthful would be only a part of the truth; his aptitude to entertain misgivings [...] made him often think it right to express his opinions to avoid the possibility of being misunderstood.  

And as regards honesty his friend Aubrey de Vere (1814-1902) gave a very pictorial quote,  

A quality which belonged pre-eminently to him was his absolute absence of all disguise. Some one remarked of him: “Hamilton is simply transparent; his thoughts are as visible to you as the leaves of a tree close by and sun-smitten. It would be impossible for him to tell a lie even if he wished to do so, and he could no more conceal a thought than he could tell a lie.”  

Also the friendship between Hamilton and Miss Arabella, who was eighteen years his senior, was a for those times unusually truthful one as was seen in the 1833 letter to Helen Bayly. It was not a single occurrence of honesty; when in 1827, still only twenty-one years old, Hamilton had been elected Royal Astronomer of Ireland, Miss Arabella very openly warned him “not to become too excited by his new honours.” And later that year, in which he still struggled with the loss of his first love Catherine Disney who had married in 1825, “she saw signs of a dangerous morbidity, and warned him against “indulging too often this train of thought.””  

The truthfulness was mutual; perhaps in 1825 or somewhat later Hamilton wrote a letter to Arabella Lawrence, who was Unitarian, which illustrates De Morgan’s quote,  

You know that in our many conversations, remembered by me with great pleasure, I always studiously avoided the usually unprofitable topic of religious controversy, and you will not think that I now wish to introduce it, but will consider me as only anxious to guard against the possibility of being mistaken, if I shortly express my opinion of Dr. Channing’s theology. I consider him as a good man and an eloquent writer.  

But in his anti-trinitarian speculations - the term of courtesy “Unitarian” I cannot use as a distinctive epithet, since it would imply that the members of the Church of England did not pray on the festival by which they intend to express their belief of the Trinity, to be enabled “in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity” - in these Dr. C. appears to me to have ventured beyond the region, I will not say of all philosophy, but of his own philosophical attainments.  

He ended the letter writing,  

Do not think that I want to draw you into any argument, in which indeed it is unlikely we should have time to engage, although I thought it right to say this much, lest my studious silence on the subject might be misconstrued.
3 A large dinner party in Dublin

Hamilton indeed befriended Miss Arabella in 1825, and it certainly is possible that that was on a visit to Maria Edgeworth, who according to Graves held especially “the eldest sister” in very high esteem. Although Graves did not give first names it can safely be assumed that he was writing about Arabella, whom he supposed to have been the eldest. But the first time Hamilton met Arabella Lawrence may have been two years earlier, in Dublin in 1823, when he had “dined with a large party” at “Mr Robert Hutton’s.”

Robert Hutton (1784-1870) and his wife Caroline, née Crompton (1793-1882), connected Hamilton’s maternal relatives, the Huttons, to Coleridge’s Liverpool friends, Peter and Mary Crompton; Robert was a first cousin of Hamilton’s mother Sarah Hutton; Caroline was the youngest daughter of Peter and Mary Crompton. But not only were the Huttons thus related by marriage to the Cromptons, they were also, albeit more distantly, related by marriage to the Miss Lawrences.

What further connected these three families was that they were nonconformist. The Miss Lawrences, the Cromptons and the Hutton coach-building family were Unitarians; Joseph Hutton (1765-1856) was a Presbyterian Minister, his son Joseph (1790-1860) a Unitarian minister; Susan Hutton (..-1858), one of Sarah’s sisters, married a Moravian minister, John Willey (1781-1847). It is all in complete agreement with Hamilton having been baptised by Rev. Benjamin Mathias of Bethesda Chapel in Dublin, which was a Church of Ireland congregation yet Mathias was called a ‘dissenter’; with Hamilton’s father Archibald’s deep attachment to Archibald Hamilton Rowan (1751-1834) who was Presbyterian; and with his son Sydney Hamilton Rowan (1789-1847), an “influential member of the Presbyterian church,” having stood as a youthful ‘sponsor’ at Hamilton’s baptism.

3.1 The Lawrence sisters and the party

That Hamilton and his sister Eliza may have met Arabella Lawrence in 1823 at the Dublin party was inferred from a remark in a letter to their sister Grace (1802-1846). In June 1827 Hamilton

47 From the quote from the 1833 letter to Helen Bayly, see p. 4, it is obvious that their friendship started with Arabella’s ‘candour’, which according to Graves happened in 1825, see p. 2.
48 [Graves 1882, 191]
49 [Graves 1882, 142]. Hamilton’s grandparents, Robert Hutton (1756-ca 1830) and Mary Ann Guinin (..-1839), who had married in 1779, were still alive. Robert probably died in 1830, Mary Ann died in 1837 [Swanwick et al. 1899, 59] (this is a continuation of [Lawrence 1844]). Yet Hamilton, who was only eighteen then, was writing to Cousin Arthur who may not have known the Huttons as well as Hamilton did, and calling Robert ‘Mr.’ instead of ‘grandfather’ indicates that he was writing about his twenty-one year older maternal first cousin once removed. This is further corroborated by Graves’ addtion “née Crompton” on p. 7.
50 They married in 1821, and the advertisement leaves no doubt about who they were. The 3d instant, at ‘Mr Robert Hutton’s.’
51 [Swanwick et al. 1899, 61]. Robert’s brother was the famous Dublin coach maker Thomas Hutton (1788-1865), see Cooke, J., Hutton, John.
52 The father of the Lawrence sisters, Nathaniel (1715-1803), was a son of Thomas Lawrence (ca 1714-1802). He was a son of William Lawrence, and a brother of Elizabeth Lawrence who married in 1735 Joseph Swanwick (1711-1769). Their son John (1736-1818) was the father of Mary Swanwick (1767-1864) who married Hamilton’s grand-uncle Rev. Joseph Hutton (1765-1856). [Lawrence 1844, 12, 13, [Swanwick et al. 1899, 16, 59]. Although such kinships might all seem very distant they were important then; Graves for instance showed how Hamilton was related to the astronomer John Adams (1819-1892) [Graves 1885, 551-552], and Hamilton mentioned that his pupil Lord Adare (1812-1871) was a “distant connexion of mine - fifth cousin by my mother’s side” [Graves 1882, 589]. [Graves 1889, 336].
53 Nonconformism. The Lawrences were descendants of Philip Henry (1631-1696), a nonconformist clergyman.
54 See for having been Unitarian, the Misses Lawrence, the Hutton coach-builders, and the Cromptons. Mary Crompton’s nearly angelic obituary was given in [Aspland 1840, 406].
55 [Swanwick et al. 1899, 14, 16]
57 The Evangelical magazine and missionary chronicle, vol 19, 1841, pp. 492, 493.
58 For Archibald Hamilton and Archibald Rowan see Weerden, A. van, The Hamiltons of Jervis Street.
59 Weerden, A. van, Sydney Hamilton Rowan.
60 The Lawrence sisters also asked about Hamilton’s aunt Mary Hutton (..-1837), and about the Ellis family, who lived in the neighbourhood of the Observatory. The Ellis family was acquainted with the De Vere family of Curragh Chase; the first time Hamilton met Ellen de Vere was in their home [Graves 1882, 470]. Hamilton and
had been appointed Royal Astronomer of Ireland, and waiting until he could move into Dunsink Observatory in Dublin he was travelling through Ireland and England. In August 1827 he wrote to Grace from Liverpool,

There are many things to interest and please in Liverpool. I have found out Mrs. Robert Hutton [Graves added: née Crompton] and her family, with whom I have been spending a little time, as also with the Misses Lawrence, some of whom had met Eliza in Dublin, and desire to be remembered to her. I have met others too whom I was glad to see, especially Dr. Traill, a very pleasant person, who will bring me to see Noakes,61 a wonderful calculating boy. Mr. Shepherd, whom I met at the Cromptons, has given me an introduction to Roscoe, which I have not yet been able to present.62

Caroline Hutton was apparently visiting her parents at Eton House,63 and thereafter visiting the Misses Lawrence was easy; they lived at The Grange, Gateacre, Little Woolton, only about two kilometres from the Cromptons.64 Traill (1781-1862) and Shepherd (1768-1847) were members of a mainly Unitarian network around William Roscoe (1753-1831), called the Roscoe circle.65 From Hamilton’s letter it is obvious that in Liverpool he met with active and influential Unitarians, some of whom he already seems to have known, and how common it was to give each other introductions.

It is not known when “some” of the Lawrence sisters were in Dublin because Hamilton did not give a year, but if they were in Dublin in 1823 they will doubtlessly have been at the large party. From the letters by Samuel Coleridge’s wife Sara, née Fricker (1770-1845), it appeared that she, and perhaps also Coleridge, already knew the Misses Lawrence when they still lived in Birmingham. Sara Coleridge wrote that in the autumn of 1806, when Coleridge was travelling, she went with the children to Liverpool where

we were met by Dr Crompton’s carriage, and taken to Eton Hall, four miles out of Liverpool, where we stayed a fortnight, to the great happiness of Derwent [(1800-1883)] and Sara [(1802-1852)]. Thence we got to Birmingham, stayed a few days with the Misses Lawrence, [. . . etc.].66

It is therefore very likely that also the Cromptons and the Lawrence sisters already knew each other, if only from the stories of the Coleridges.

Shortly after Sara Coleridge’s visit the Misses Lawrence moved to Liverpool where, in 1807, they not only started their school, but where Sarah also became governess with the Crompton family,67 which she remained to be “for many years.”68 Having been born in 1793 Caroline Crompton was fourteen in 1807, and as the youngest daughter, Sarah Lawrence will also have been her governess. These close networks of families and friends make it easy to imagine that Caroline happily invited the Lawrence sisters to her ‘large dinner party’ in Dublin.

4 Hoping to visit Coleridge, and depression

A month after having written the aforementioned letter to Grace, in September 1827 Hamilton met and befriended William Wordsworth69 to whom he wrote in January 1831,
[The astronomer John] Herschel [(1792-1871)] [...] renews in a very kind manner the expression of a wish to become personally acquainted with me, and to see me in his house. Of course I must, like all the world, go some time or other to London, and I should think it worth while to do so, if I were thereby to become acquainted with Herschel and Coleridge. 70

Later that year, on 29 October 1831, he asked Wordsworth for an introduction to Coleridge. In the second part of the following quote the honesty De Morgan wrote about can be seen again, just as in his letter to Arabella Lawrence. But now Hamilton even took the risk, probably small but still, of not receiving an introduction.

[A certain astronomical ceremony in London] will take place about the end of next month (November), and I still intend to be present, and still feel it as my chief inducement that by then visiting London I may have an opportunity of visiting Coleridge. I am aware indeed that illness may prevent his seeing me [...]. Perhaps, may certainly, my chance would be greater than it is, if he knew of the intimacy with which you have favoured me. At the very moment when I am thus feeling in a new way the value of that intimacy, I must make a confession which will not indeed endanger its existence, but will show that (unfortunately for me) it does not at present extend to an entire agreement of opinion. The confession is that I am a Reformer [...] – avowed, not as if it were worthy of the slightest consideration from you, but merely lest after the frequent allusions in your letters to the subject, respectful silence on my part might seem, to myself at least, like insincere assent. 71

On 22 November Wordsworth reacted to Hamilton’s ‘confession’ in unmistakable terms, and closed his reprimand, and therewith the letter, with a seemingly punitive “farewell”! 72 Hamilton had indeed every reason to fear that he was endangering his friendship with Wordsworth.

On 11 November Hamilton wrote to Wordsworth that he had to cancel his visit to London, and therefore had lost “for the present, all hope of seeing Coleridge.” 73 In the aforementioned letter of 22 November, before closing it with the reprimand, Wordsworth answered,

Upon the whole, I am not sorry that your project of going to London at present is dropped. It would have grieved me had you been unfurnished with an introduction from me to Mr. Coleridge, yet I know not how I could have given you one – he is often so very unwell [...] that, unless I was assured he was something in his better way, I could not disturb him by the introduction of anyone. His most intimate friend is Mr. [Joseph Henry] Green 74 [...] if to him you could procure an introduction, he would let you know the state of Coleridge’s health; and to Mr. Green [...] you might use my name, with a view to further your wish. 75

70 [Graves 1882, 422]. In this article the philosophical or metaphysical reasons why Hamilton wanted to meet Coleridge do not have to be discussed; a quote by Aubrey de Vere might suffice. “One night, while we stood beside his little domestic lake, Rydal, as it glistened in the beam of a low-hung moon, Wordsworth said, “I have known crowds of clever men, as everyone has; not a few of high abilities, and several of real genius; yet I have only seen one whom I should call wonderful - Coleridge.” He then added: “But I should not say that; for I have known one other man, a fellow-countryman of yours, who was wonderful also - Sir William Rowan Hamilton; and he was singularly like Coleridge!” [De Vere 1897, 41].

71 [Graves 1882, 477-478]. In 1831, the English House of Commons passed a Reform Bill, which would change the electoral system. It was rejected by the House of Lords. In 1832 the Reform Act and the Irish Reform Act did change the system.

72 [Graves 1882, 493]. Wordsworth wrote, “One word upon Reform in Parliament a subject to which somewhat reluctantly you allude. You are a Reformer! are you an approver of the bill as rejected by the Lords [...]? [...] then I earnestly exhort you to devote hours and hours to the study of human nature, in books, in life, and in your own mind [...]. The Constitution of England, which seems about to be destroyed, offers to my mind the sublimest contemplation which the history of society and governments have ever presented to it [...]. Think about this, apply it to what we are threatened with, and farewell.” Graves may have left out the usual regards and “believe me &c.” perhaps making the “farewell” seem harsher than it was meant to be. Still, it hardly radiates friendliness.

73 [Graves 1882, 486]

74 Joseph Henry Green (1791-1863), was professor of anatomy from 1825 until 1851, professor of principles and practice of surgery from 1830 until 1836. From 1815 until 1836 he had a private surgical practice in Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London. He became the literary executor of Coleridge, whom he seems to have met in 1817.

75 [Graves 1882, 492]
Obviously, the opportunity Wordsworth gave to Hamilton to be introduced to Coleridge after all incorporated the protection Coleridge will have needed; that as far as possible people would not be introduced to him when he was not feeling well. In a time without direct contact this was doubtlessly a wise thing to do.

### 4.1 Ellen de Vere

Hamilton had written these letters to Wordsworth while deeply in love with Ellen de Vere (ca 1810-1889), which Wordsworth knew about. On 27 October 1831 he had written to Hamilton, “to speak frankly, you appear to be at least three-fourths gone in love; therefore, think about the last quarter in the journey.” But in the first week of December 1831 Ellen de Vere rejected Hamilton, upon which he became very depressed.

In the following months Hamilton did work on his mathematics, but between waves of melancholy. Towards the end of February or early in March 1832 Hamilton’s former pupil and friend Lord Adare (1812-1871) “determined to visit London in company with his friend Francis Goold [(1805-1848)]. He then wrote more than once urging Hamilton to join them.” Hamilton refused,

> I could give you many fine reasons against it; but perhaps what most prevents me is that I am lazy and not in spirits, lying in bed half the day, and in the worst possible mood for making up my mind to set out on a journey […]. But […] I hope to be in a more active mood whenever you make your next visit to London, and then perhaps we may go together.

People became very worried. Hamilton’s then new friend Aubrey de Vere, a younger brother of Ellen de Vere, whose friendship he had ‘won from the wreck’ wrote, “I am very sorry you dislike the idea of going to London with Adare: he told me he had written to ask you to accompany him there, and I had great hopes the change of scene and occupation would serve to deaden, though not destroy, the memory of your late painful feelings.”

Also Adare and his mother were worried;

> Urgent and affectionate pleadings from Lord Adare and Lady Dunraven [(ca 1789-1870)], who were much distressed by the account he gave of himself, overcame the reluctance arising from his depression, and he resolved to make the exertion to which he was so kindly summoned.

### 5 Liverpool and London

They left Dublin on 14 March and arrived in Liverpool early the next morning. Later that day, from a Manchester hotel Hamilton wrote a letter to Eliza.

> I left Lord Adare and Francis Goold to breakfast and amuse themselves, while I set out to walk to the Miss Lawrences’. They could not at the hotel direct me to their house, so I thought I would try the Post Office for information: and there, though I was too early to find the office open, I met a very civil groom […] who knew where the Miss Lawrences lived, and gave me some useful directions. He thought they were only about three miles from Liverpool, which […] determined me to walk, though for this I had perhaps a better reason in the cars not being yet on the stand. […] I might have waited a little while, and probably would have done so, if I had known

---

76 [Graves 1882, 474]
77 [Graves 1882, 552]. Only late in the summer of 1832, when he discovered how to handle such feelings, he regained his spirits, and never became so melancholic again for such a long time [Van Weerden 2017, 4.3]. That autumn he fell in love with Helen Bayly.
78 Francis Goold was a barrister who had entered Trinity College Dublin a year before Hamilton [Graves 1882, 318]. In 1837 Adare married his sister Augusta Goold (1810-1866).
79 [Graves 1882, 525]
80 [Graves 1882, 511, 533]
81 [Graves 1882, 528]
that the distance was really six miles instead of three. As it was, between many goings astray and disappointments as to the expected shortness of my walk, I grew at last quite ravenous, not having eaten anything since my parting breakfast at the Observatory, except the fragment which I snatched up at [Cousin Arthur’s house in South] Cumberland-street. So I went into a shop for selling all things, at Wavertree [...], and having luckily a sixpence in my pocket, I spent it to my great satisfaction on sundry refreshments [...]. I came to the gate at last, and [...] found all the Miss Lawrences at home. [...] I had the pleasure of hearing many anecdotes of the early life of Coleridge, and of getting, what I had not all expected, a letter of introduction to him which may be very useful. It was from the eldest Miss Lawrence, who had known him when a young man. [...] As it was, after a substantial luncheon [...] I returned to Liverpool in a car with Miss Arabella Lawrence, and after visiting the Roscoes with her, I joined my party at the hotel, and soon we were on the railway which I see I have no room to describe, though it is really worthy of description.

From the letter it does not become clear whether Hamilton knew about Sarah’s friendship with Coleridge. Yet he seems to have been very open about his high hopes to meet with Coleridge in London, leading to the anecdotes, and apparently to the letter.

### 5.1 Visiting Coleridge

On 27 March Hamilton wrote to Aubrey de Vere,

> We arrived in London on a Saturday night [17 March], and the next day I made my way to Coleridge [...]. Mrs. Gillman, the mistress of the house, told me that Coleridge had been confined for some time to his room, and that she feared he could not see me during my present visit to London; however, she took up my card and a letter of introduction, which I had unexpectedly obtained at Liverpool, and she brought me word that he would see me on Tuesday [20 March] at four o’clock.

On 18 March 1832, indeed the day on which Mrs. Gillman showed Coleridge Hamilton’s letter of introduction, Coleridge wrote the aforementioned letter to Sarah Lawrence, which he ended writing,

> I shall endeavour to see Mr. Hamilton. I doubt not his scientific attainments. I have the proofs of his taste and feeling as a poet – but believe me, my dear Miss L! that should the cloud of distemper pass from over me, there needs no other passport to a cordial welcome from me than a line from you, importing that he or she possesses your esteem and regard, and that you wish I should show attention to them.

Hamilton continued his letter to De Vere,

> [Tuesday at four o’clock] I accordingly had an interview in his bedroom, and was not at all disappointed. The interview lasted for an hour and a-half, during the last five minutes of which time his dinner was on the table. Another visit was fixed for Friday [23 March], and I saw him then for two hours. Both interviews interested me very much, but I shall not attempt to describe them, because I feel it almost an injury to

---

82 The Misses Lawrence lived at Gateacre, which is indeed about ten kilometres from the city centre. It can be seen in the map that at Wavertree Hamilton walked along the railroad, about which he wrote, “Attracted by two tall pillars, of which one was sending forth steam, [...] I saw to my great astonishment a part of the celebrated railway, no part of which I had seen before” [Graves 1882, 534-535]. This was the Liverpool and Manchester railway, the world’s first intercity railway, operated by steam locomotives.

83 [Graves 1882, 533-535]. Travelling by train from Liverpool to Manchester only took 1 hour 46 minutes. Hamilton could therefore easily visit the Roscoes after luncheon and arrive at the Manchester Hotel the same day.

84 If Ishikura was right and Hamilton had deceived the Lawrence sisters, he would have been lying for a second time; first to Eliza, and now to Aubrey.

85 [Graves 1882, 544-545], [EH Coleridge 1895, 758]. Hamilton knew about the letter because Coleridge did not trust he read Miss Lawrence’s address, The Grange, correctly, and decided to wait for Hamilton to acknowledge it [EH Coleridge 1895, 760]. Coleridge will therefore have sent the letter on or directly after Hamilton’s first visit. Hamilton will not have read the letter then; he read it when Sarah Lawrence showed it to him in June 1832.
the sense of grandeur and infinity with which the whole impressed me then, to try to recall the details now, even in my own mind and silently, much more aloud and to others. My scientific engagements having multiplied, and being more a matter of business, I did not ask for any third appointment with Coleridge, especially as after a visit to him I am too late for any dinner party; but I hope to see him once again before I return to Ireland.  

It is not certain whether Hamilton saw Coleridge for a third time yet it is possible; about a year later Hamilton wrote in a manuscript book that he had visited Coleridge “several times.” In the first week of April, while Hamilton still was in London, Coleridge and Hamilton did correspond, and in the last letter Coleridge hoped that his ‘scrawl’ would reach Hamilton in time, to make it possible for Hamilton to visit his friend Joseph Green. Thus introduced by Coleridge Hamilton went to Green’s house twice, and “was so fortunate as to find him at home on the last day of my being in London,” as he later wrote to Coleridge.

On 13 April Hamilton wrote to Wordsworth from Cambridge,

I took the opportunity of my being near Highgate, while in London, to make several visits to Coleridge, which did not disappoint my expectations. Mr. Coleridge received me in his bedroom, and expressed himself as having little hope of recovering, or indeed of living long; but in other respects he spoke with great animation, and, as you will easily believe, great eloquence. It was a pleasure to me, of a high and uncommon kind, to listen thus to the words of one from whose writings I consider myself to have derived so much of impulse and instruction.”

5.2 A last meeting

Hamilton and Coleridge would meet once more: in June 1833 Hamilton visited the annual meeting of the British Society which was held in Cambridge, and on 29 June he wrote to Helen, whom he had married in April,

I have slipped away to my own rooms, to write you a few lines, after this busy and brilliant week of meeting. […] On the day before yesterday […] I spent the evening in company with Coleridge, whom I have thus enjoyed the very unexpected pleasure of meeting.

Graves remarks that he could not find a record of that evening. But Coleridge must also have enjoyed Hamilton’s company; on 30 June 1834 Adare was allowed almost an hour with Coleridge, and then wrote to Hamilton, whom Coleridge had promised to send a volume of Kant,

I am so exceedingly obliged to you for the letter you were so kind as to give me for Coleridge. I took it to-day, and on inquiring if Mr. Coleridge was at home, I was told he had been ill and could not see anyone; but I begged the servant to take up the letter to him, and to my great delight he sent down to say he would see me – this I consider as a compliment to you. […] He says he will get some one to look out for that work of Kant’s for you. […] I told him how you liked Kant, and how delighted you would be

---

86 [Graves 1882, 538-539]
87 [Graves 1882, 540]. A third visit is also suggested by [Coburn et al. 2019, 278 fn 2], who conclude that if he visited him again, it was on 4 April.
88 For Coleridge’s three letters to Hamilton see [Graves 1882, 542-547].
89 [Graves 1882, 558]. Graves seems to have guessed the date of the scrawl as 6 April but that is hardly possible; they visited Greenwich on Thursday 5 April and left London on the 6th; Coleridge’s scrawl must have reached Hamilton on the 5th.
90 [Graves 1882, 552]
91 [Graves 1885, 50]
92 [Graves 1885, 52]
93 On 4 April Coleridge wrote, “I have not been able in the wilderness of my books […] as yet to find the first volume of Kant’s Miscellaneous Essays. […] But have you misunderstood me? I have no translation, and am aware of none or are you a reader of the German? If so, I trust that I shall, before you quit London, still succeed in rummaging out the two lost volumes. […] With great respect, my dear sir, I remain your afflicted but respectful, &c.” [Graves 1882, 545].
at hearing he (Coleridge) was about to publish another work. I must say, since I came to London I have not felt so happy as this day; […] and I know not how to thank you for sending me the letter." 94

Coleridge indeed sent the Kant to Adare. 95 He died very shortly thereafter, on 25 July 1834; Adare thus visited him less than a month before his death.

6 More viable ways to be introduced

Ishikura very positively described Hamilton’s friendship with Wordsworth and the influence Coleridge had on Hamilton, and certainly to the philosophical considerations nothing can be added here; this is just about personal relationships. Yet Ishikura wrote her article before it was possible to check all the circumstances around the letter of introduction easily. Most of the books and short biographies referred to here only came online around 2008, 96 and although every now and then people had protested, most of the persistent gossip about Hamilton which shows in her article was generally accepted. That Catherine Disney was the only woman Hamilton ever loved; that he did not write any “fine poetry” and only wrote distressedly about Catherine; 97 that Lady Hamilton could not handle the household which therefore was “liable to be in difficulties;” that in his later years Hamilton changed from “cheerful and lively” into “rather sullen and difficult.” 98

Graves’ enormous and carefully nuanced biography contains very many details about Hamilton’s private life which became wrapped up in negativity, mainly because Graves does not seem to have realised that his biography would be read and interpreted by readers who did not read cover to cover, found his criticisms more interesting than his praise, or did not know anything about Dublin and its mores in those days. His criticisms were repeated and further enhanced for more than a century until the story itself became distorted almost beyond recognition. 99

It will be assumed hereafter that the view on Hamilton’s character which Graves intended to convey in his biography is restored again. That Catherine Disney was not the only woman in Hamilton’s life, that he had been happy in his marriage, and that

The solemn dogged seriousness with which he would take in hand any problem of daily life which was new to him, whether it were important or trivial, and, if it were trivial, the double consciousness alongside of this, taking humorous enjoyment in the comedy, and ready to burst into a genial laugh, were characteristic of him to the end of his life. 100

6.1 Deceit and honesty

The part of Ishikura’s article to be discussed starts with her description of Hamilton’s having become “busy with the idea of visiting London,” without giving the circumstances of his life. 101 The direct reason to consider to go to London was that Hamilton, as he wrote to Wordsworth, had received an invitation to be present at the “astronomical ceremony” of the placing on its supports, by the Duke of Wellington, of a great Equatorial in the Observatory of Sir James South

94 [Graves 1885, 94] According to Adare Coleridge “conversed with so much vigour and animation, though he had difficulty in speaking at all,” he even was funny now and then, and made them laugh. And he told Adare about a book he was going to write, “on logic of some particular kind.” [Graves 1885, 94-95].

95 [Graves 1885, 96]

96 Especially when the University of Toronto uploaded a treasure trove to the Internet Archive.

97 In early 1833 Hamilton wrote to Coleridge, “I send you some love poems addressed to a lady to whom I am to be married soon. If you should be disposed to point out any of the faults of these trifles, I can be sure, from my experience of my feeling towards former friendly censures, that I should bear it better than did the Archbishop of Granada; but it would be unreasonable to ask you to accept what you might think an ungrateful office, especially as I have no hope of ever ranking as a poet.” [Graves 1885, 37].

98 [Ishikura 2008, 65 fn 4, 67-69]

99 For an overview and discussions of why and how parts of Hamilton’s reputation became so distorted see [Van Weerden 2017], [Van Weerden and Wepster 2018], the 2019 biographical sketch of Catherine Disney, and the neglected influence of the women in Hamilton’s life.

100 [Graves 1882, 123]

101 [Ishikura 2008, 65], [Graves 1882, 477]
(1785-1867), at Kensington. Finding that the ceremony was planned for November 1831, late in October Hamilton asked Wordsworth for an introduction to Coleridge.

Notwithstanding the number of points of scientific and other interest connected with that great metropolis, my highest hope and inducement in visiting it was the prospect, or at least the chance, of seeing and listening to Coleridge. 102

Wordsworth answered that Coleridge was ill, and that no one who knows him could feel justified in holding out the hope of even an introduction to him as an inducement for your visiting London. 103

Early in November Hamilton wrote to Wordsworth that the London project was broken off because South had cancelled the event. On 22 November Wordsworth answered 104 that he was not sorry that Hamilton would not go to London because it would have grieved him had Hamilton been unfurnished with an introduction Coleridge, but that the latter was often so very unwell. In her article Ishikura gave that quote, 105 yet without the second part of the same paragraph in which Wordsworth gave an alternative, that Hamilton might be introduced to Coleridge’s friend, the “distinguished surgeon Mr. Green,” to whom he was allowed to use Wordsworth’s name. 106

Early in December Hamilton was rejected by Ellen de Vere, who is not mentioned in Ishikura’s article. Hamilton became very melancholic, people became worried, and in March he had to be persuaded to join Adare on the journey to London. Apparently assuming that Hamilton knew that his friend Arabella Lawrence was also Coleridge’s friend, and that Hamilton was in a determined mood, Ishikura suggested that he planned to visit the Lawrence sisters in Liverpool just to achieve this goal. Moreover, that to the Lawrence sisters he did not ‘reveal’ his ‘secret’ reason to visit them, and that thereafter he lied to his own sister, Eliza. 107

As was shown here, Hamilton was extremely honest, and lying to Eliza would have been completely out-of-character for Hamilton. Also the friendship between Arabella Lawrence and Hamilton was unusually honest, and therefore the suggested deception is the main reason to reject Ishikura’s view on Hamilton’s motives to visit the Miss Lawrences. If Hamilton did know that Sarah Lawrence was a good friend of Coleridge, there is not any reason why Hamilton would not just ask Sarah for an introduction, or ask Arabella to do that for him. Sarah already knew him, perhaps from Caroline Hutton’s dinner party, and in any case from his 1827 visit.

Something else is that the view on the Lawrence sisters as a group of apparently interchangeable elderly ladies is too shallow. Even though they lived together, were teachers and governesses as most educated unmarried women then were, it appears that they lived their own lives; Sarah had been governess with the Cromptons, Arabella with the Byrons. Sarah was an author and a friend of Coleridge, Arabella was especially highly esteemed by Maria Edgeworth. She was called “an impressive young educationalist,” and was apparently often away from home. Also for Hamilton the sisters were not exchangeable, calling Arabella “my old friend,” and Sarah “the eldest Miss L.”

The argument can even be reversed; precisely the fact that he did not ask Sarah for an introduction would mean that he did not know about her friendship with Coleridge. Similarly, he may not have known about Mrs. Crompton’s friendship with Coleridge. In 1827 Hamilton had also visited the Cromptons, he therefore knew Mary Crompton personally, and he could easily have asked Caroline Hutton to write to her mother, or visit the Cromptons when he was in Liverpool. He did not; he decided to visit his friend.

6.2 An introduction to Green

What is much more plausible is that Hamilton took Wordsworth’s advise, that he could try to procure an introduction to Coleridge’s friend, Joseph Henry Green, very seriously. There appear to have been many ways to do that.

---

102 [Graves 1882, 477]
103 [Ishikura 2008, 65]
104 See p. 8.
105 [Ishikura 2008, 65]
106 [Graves 1882, 492], see also p. 8.
107 See p. 2.
Joseph Henry Green was an anatomist and surgeon,108 and an indirect but easily traceable connection could be made with Thomas Stewart Traill, the physician whom Hamilton met in 1827 at the Comptons and whom he had called “a very pleasant person.”109 Traill knew the surgeon James Dawson (1779-1875)110 because in 1820 the Liverpool Ophthalmic Infirmary was established, and next to Traill, as physician, one of the three surgeons was Dawson.111 Not a strict guarantee that they knew each other, but showing that also the social distance between Dawson and Green was very short, is that in 1816 Green was elected Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London in 1816, and Dawson in 1818.112 Hamilton of course may not have known this, but the connections are so easily made that it is plausible that there were many more connections, and that he therefore just could have asked Traill.

An even more plausible scenario is that Hamilton hoped to be introduced to Green by John Herschel or Charles Babbage. Herschel and Babbage were lifelong friends,113 and in 1827 they had been travelling in Ireland, just at the time Hamilton was in England. In Dublin a friend of Hamilton had talked with Herschel, who had told him that he “regretted much having been so unfortunate as to miss [Hamilton] at the Observatory.” Having returned home again, in October 1827 Hamilton started the correspondence with Herschel, which “continued nearly to the end of Hamilton’s life.”114

Hamilton’s second inducement to go to London had indeed been to meet Herschel, and on 27 March Hamilton wrote to De Vere,

> Adare and I have seen many of our scientific acquaintances and other men of science, especially at a great conversazione given by the Duke of Sussex on Saturday evening last. We have met Sir John Herschel and Sir James South, and are invited to visit both.115

They did visit Herschel at his home in Slough, and South at his Kensington Observatory, they breakfasted with Babbage116 and saw his “wonderful machine.”117 This might have been the shortest route to Joseph Green; both Babbage and Herschel seem to have known Green.118

But perhaps the best scenario is much more general. The journey to England lasted for six weeks, and they were in London for three weeks. Already having been invited by in any case Herschel, they knew beforehand that they would be invited to many dinner parties.119 Adare was of course nobility, and having earned two optime’s at college Hamilton was already famous as De Morgan mentioned in 1865,

> I heard of the extraordinary attainments of a very young student of Trinity College, which were noised about at Cambridge. […] I was thus led to watch Hamilton’s career before I knew anything of him personally.120

They were indeed invited to very many parties; in general the visits during their stay in London do not seem to have been strictly planned, and at every party they will have met new people who then also invited them. The list of names in Hamilton’s letters is already quite long but certainly not in any way complete, “having seen even more than we expected of scientific men and

108 See p. 8.
109 See p. 7.
110 British Medical Association, Annual meeting 1912, Liverpool, p 91. Dawson was, from 1820, surgeon to the Liverpool Ophthalmic Infirmary, from 1826 until 1840 surgeon to the Liverpool Infirmary and General Hospital, and from 1840 until 1865 president of the combined medical societies meeting in the Medical Institution.
111 British Medical Association, Annual meeting, 1912.
112 Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, pp. xvii and xiv, respectively. They were indeed members already in 1819.
113 Herschel and Babbage.
114 (Graves 1882, 278-281)
115 (Graves 1882, 539). It is not known if Goold still was accompanying them. As a barrister, he may have had a different reason to travel to London.
116 After Hamilton’s death De Morgan wrote to Lady Hamilton, “I met [Hamilton], about 1830, at Babbage’s breakfast-table, and there, for the only time in our lives, we conversed” (Graves 1889, 213).
117 (Graves 1882, 550)
118 For instance, in 1826 Babbage and Green both signed a Certificate of Election for Charles Bell (1774-1842). Or, both Herschel, Babbage and Green corresponded with John Frederic Daniell (1790-1845), from 1831 professor of chemistry at King’s College in London.
119 See p. 11.
120 (Graves 1889, 216)
things." 121 Green was a Fellow of the Royal Society 122 and so were many people they met, and Hamilton will have trusted that in those three whole weeks it would almost be impossible not to meet someone who knew Joseph Green well enough to give him an introduction.

But in the end, Hamilton did not need an introduction to Joseph Green, because Sarah Lawrence had, unexpectedly, given him one to her friend Coleridge.

References


121 [Graves 1882, 551]. Having left London they went to Cambridge to visit George Biddell Airy (1801-1892). About that visit Hamilton wrote, giving some insight in how also London will have been, “we have been nominally at Professor Airy’s Observatory, but really in a continual round of breakfasts, dinners and evening parties at the University, especially in Trinity College” [Graves 1882, 552].

122 Royal College of Surgeons of England, Plarr’s Lives of the Fellows.
http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1125164457.


http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/656751609.
